

CLAIMS

What is claimed as new and desired to be protected by Letters Patent of the United States is:

1. A spinning reel type gaming machine having a display means and a game control means arranged to control images of symbols carried on reels and displayed on the display means, the gaming machine providing a plurality of pay lines, and being arranged to play a base game in which at least one random event is caused to be displayed on the display means and, if a predefined winning event occurs, the machine awards a prize, and wherein on the occurrence of a predetermined triggering event gaming machine provides at least one bonus feature, and wherein the player is constrained to wager a single amount on each play of the base game without choice of other wagering options which wager provides eligibility to all pay lines of the game and eligibility to the at least one bonus feature.
2. A spinning reel type gaming machine as claimed in claim 1 wherein there is only one button which initiates a play of the base game.
3. A spinning reel type gaming machine as claimed in claim 1 wherein the display means is a video display unit displaying simulations of spinning reels.
4. A spinning reel type gaming machine as claimed in claim 1 wherein the at least one bonus feature is a progressive prize.
5. A spinning reel type gaming machine as claimed in claim 1 wherein the gaming machine has a midtrim on which there is provided only a single start or spin button.
6. A spinning reel type gaming machine as claimed in claim 5 wherein "gamble", "take win", "collect", or "reserve" buttons are also provided on the midtrim.

7. A spinning reel type gaming machine as claimed in claim 1 wherein the at least one bonus feature includes a series of free games

8. A spinning reel type gaming machine as claimed in claim 7 wherein wins for combinations of symbols in the series of free games are increased relative to wins for the corresponding combinations of symbols in the base game.

9. A spinning reel type gaming machine as claimed in claim 8 wherein wins for combinations of symbols in the series of free games are multiples of wins awarded for the corresponding combinations of symbols in the base game.

10. A gaming machine having a display means arranged to display a plurality of symbols in an array of n rows and m columns, where n and m are 2 or more, and a game control means arranged to control images displayed on the display means, the gaming machine being arranged to play an underlying game in which a prize is paid when a predetermined combination of symbols is displayed in a predetermined arrangement of symbol locations displayed on the display means, there being more than one arrangement of symbol locations for which a prize may be paid, and wherein the player is constrained to wager a single amount on each play of the underlying game which provides eligibility to win prizes for all arrangements of symbol locations for which a prize may be paid, as well as eligibility to any bonus features provided in the game without choice of other wagering options.

11. A gaming machine as claimed in claim 10 wherein there is only one button which initiates a play of the underlying game.

12. A gaming machine as claimed in claim 10 wherein the at least one bonus feature is a progressive jackpot prize.

13. A gaming machine as claimed in claim 10 wherein the at least one bonus feature includes a series of free games

14. A gaming machine as claimed in claim 13 wherein wins for combinations of symbols in the series of free games are multiples of wins for the corresponding combinations of symbols in the base game.

15. A gaming machine as claimed in claim 10 wherein the gaming machine has a midtrim and on which there is provided only a single start or spin button.

16. A gaming machine as claimed in claim 15 wherein "gamble", "take win", "collect", or "reserve" buttons are also provided on the midtrim.

17. A game playing apparatus having a display means and being controlled by a game control means, the apparatus being arranged to play an underlying game in which a plurality of symbols is displayed on the display means in an array of n rows and m columns, where n and m are 2 or more, the game playing apparatus being arranged under the control of the game control means to play an underlying game in which a prize is won when a predetermined combination of symbols is displayed in a predetermined arrangement of symbol locations displayed on the display means, there being more than one arrangement of symbol locations for which a prize may be won, and wherein the player is constrained to wager a single amount on each play of the underlying game which provides eligibility to win prizes for all arrangements of symbol locations for which a prize may be won, as well as eligibility to any bonus features provided in the game without choice of other wagering options. /

18. A gaming machine as claimed in claim 17 wherein there is only one button which initiates a play of the underlying game.

19. A game playing apparatus as claimed in claim 17 wherein the at least one bonus feature is a progressive jackpot prize.

20. A gaming machine as claimed in claim 17 wherein the at least one bonus feature includes a series of free games

21. A gaming machine as claimed in claim 20 wherein wins for combinations of symbols in the series of free games are multiples of wins for the corresponding combinations of symbols in the base game.